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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2002

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Norfolk, Virginia – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Rodney Hank Williams, age 43, of Live Oak, Florida, was sentenced today by Judge Raymond Jackson in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Virginia, to 86 months incarceration and ordered to pay \$186, 942.58 in restitution.

Williams was convicted after a 7 day jury trial on August 7, 2002, of devising a scheme to defraud various insurance companies by filing insurance claims using false names, social security numbers, dates of birth and addresses. Williams, using four aliases, filed at least four separate insurance claims between April 1997 and June 1998, at least three of which involved accidents alleging a hit-and-run driver as the cause. Williams alleged similar injuries resulting from these accidents, including head trauma and eye injury resulting in blurred vision. Since each of these accidents were filed using false means of identification, the insurance companies involved, including State Farm, Geico, Progressive and USAA, were not readily able to determine that their claimant had been involved in and suffered prior injuries from other accidents. Each of the accident claims were filed under the policies uninsured motorist coverage since they were reported as hit and run accidents. Through his attorneys, Williams demanded \$300,000.00 from Geico and \$500,000.00 from USAA.

In the claim he filed with the USAA claim's office in Norfolk, Williams assumed the identity of his brother, Kenneth G. Williams, and thereafter used his brother's social security number, date of birth, and address in pursuing the claim. Williams even went so far as to attend a deposition where he testified falsely that he was Kenneth G. Williams and answered all the questions under oath as if he were in fact his brother. USAA detected Williams' scheme when a private investigator discovered the true Kenneth G. Williams who denied being in an accident. During his testimony, Williams' admitted to using false identities in the past but gave what he considered valid reasons for doing so. Judge Jackson determined that Williams committed perjury during his testimony, Williams resided in Live Oak, Florida, prior to his arrest in April of this year.

In sentencing Williams to 86 months, Judge Jackson called him "a menace to society." Williams has a Master's degree in Psychology from the Trident Technical College in Charleston, South Carolina. Williams had prior federal and state convictions for weapons possession, operating a chop shop, false credit application, and false statements to a firearms dealer. He used false identities in committing those crimes as well. Williams' co-defendant and spouse,

Elizabeth Janes, was sentenced on October 24, 2002, to 24 months incarceration for her role in the scheme.

“Criminals who use false or stolen identities have become a major problem for businesses in the 21st century. This office will vigorously prosecute anyone who uses a false, fictitious or stolen identity”, said Mr. McNulty.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen W. Haynie.